

Message Text

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22

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ERDA-05

ACDA-05 OMB-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /071 W

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O 150440Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 724

INFO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCPACFLT IMMEDIATE

CNO IMMEDIATE

DIA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, MARR, NZ

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON NPW VISITS

REF WELLINGTON 0113 (DTG 142152Z JAN 76)

1. PM'S JANUARY 14 STATEMENT REGARDING NPW VISITS, REPORTED REFTEL, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED HIS LENGTHY AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH VISITING SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN DURING WHICH HE INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD, AFTER DUE DELIBERATION, ALLOW VISITS BY USN NPW'S. IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, I HAD HAD WITH BOTH PM AND FOREIGN MINISTER, IT WAS OBVIOUS THIS DECISION WAS FORTHCOMING BUT TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT HAD NOT BEEN INDICATED.

2. DISCUSSIONS CODELS HAD WITH PM AND DEPUTY PM/FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS WERE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN REEMPHASIZING MUTUAL SECURITY BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED
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BY OUR NPW'S BEING ABLE TO UTILIZE NZ PORT FACILITIES,

AND IN REMOVING ANY DOUBTS THAT MAY EXISTED ABOUT U.S.
LIABILITY IN EVENT OF REACTOR INCIDENT.

3. IT IS, OF COURSE, IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT
PM HAS IN HIS STATEMENT DRAWN DISTINCTION BETWEEN
NUCLEAR-PROPELLED AND NUCLEAR-ARMED VESSELS. THIS
LEAVES A MATTER FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

4. IN ANY EVENT, PM WAS OBVIOUSLY SO ENTHUSED AFTER
TALKING WITH VISITING SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN THAT ON
SPUR OF MOMENT HE DECIDED TO ANNOUNCE A POSITIVE
DECISION BY HIS GOVERNMENT ON NPW VISITS. IN DOING SO,
HE WAS IMPLEMENTING AN UNDERTAKING WHICH HE HAD GIVEN
ME PRIOR TO NATIONAL PARTY'S DRAMATIC REELECTION TO
OFFICE IN NOVEMBER. I AM CERTAIN DEPARTMENT AND OTHER
AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON AND THE FIELD ARE AS GRATIFIED AS
I OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT.
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